

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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plication of: Molz, IV, et al.

Filed: December 10, 2003

Serial No. 10/733554

For: Method and Apparatus for Replacing the

Function of Facet Joints

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner For Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, and in accordance with the practice under 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed modified Form PTO-1449. No inference should be made that the cited references are in fact material, are in fact prior art, or that no better art exists. The cited patents are listed in numerical order and are not in any order based on their pertinence.

The above-identified application was filed after June 30, 2003. Therefore, pursuant to the waiver of the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) as stated in a Pre-OG Notice dated July 11, 2003, copies of only the foreign patent documents and non-patent literature listed on the enclosed modified Form PTO-1449 are attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the United States filing date or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required (37 CFR §1.97(b)).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-1394.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Respectfully submitted,

David M. O'Dell

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R-68810.1

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Signature

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In place of PTO-1449 Form	U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE			Complete if Known		
1 6	MAR 0 9 2004	· ju		Application Number	10/733,554	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE				Filing Date	December 10, 2003	
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Applicant(s)	Molz, IV, et al.	
			sary)	Art Unit	Unknown	
				Examiner Name	Unknown	
SHEET	1	OF	1	Attorney Docket Number	31132.63	

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	
	A1	2,235,488	03/18/1941	Mercier	
	A2	5,961,516	10/05/1999	Graf	
	A3	2002/0065557 A1	05/30/2002	Goble, et al	
	A4	2002/0072800 A1	06/13/2002	Goble, et al.	
	A5	6,419,703 B1	07/16/2002	Fallin, et al.	
	A6	2002/0095154 A1	07/18/2002	Atkinson, et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document (Country Code - Number - Kind)	Publication Date	Patentee or Applicant of Cited Translation Document YN	
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OTHER PRIOR ART					
Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article, title of the item, date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city/country where published			

Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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